

**GARDENA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MINUTES**

Date: August 17, 2026 / Time: 4:00 p.m. PST

via Zoom

<http://zoom.us/j/93600364447?pwd=2Dg64tsOAdqblWuFzxncRTCHI3KZts.1>

ATTENDEES:

Present: Salli Hale - Anthony Jackson - Philip Johnson - Elmer Membreno - David Morikawa - Reshon Moutra - Cheryl Nakata - Shirley Warren - Zerrona Williams

Absent: AJ Alexander - Rosie Gaspar - Crystal Hawkins - Tamara Kemp - Karen Millom

Sonia Buenrostro (Principal)

- 1. Call to Order**-Shirley Warren called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** - no quorum at this time. We will revisit when more Members arrive. Additions to the agenda under New Business include suggestion of a monthly fundraiser/quarterly social gathering as well as our June meeting with Principal Buenrostro and our attendance at August 10th staff/faculty meeting.
- 3. Approval of Minutes - May 18, 2026** - A couple of errors were discovered: there was an extra 0 in the date of April 20, 2026, and the comma in \$1,000 was Incorrectly placed to make it look as if it were a \$10,000 donation. Both have Been corrected. No quorum at this time and will be revisited later as more Members arrive.
- 4. Treasurer's Report** - Total balance as of August 16, 2026, is \$20,109.43 thanks largely to the check from the Long Beach Grand Prix fundraiser. Also, David Morikawa's \$1,000 donation/challenge and Dennis Gilbert's \$2,500 donation. David asked why the \$1,000 donation was identified as an expense? A correction should be made by saying that it is a donation and the \$1,000 expense is the money spent on the Faculty/Staff Breakfast. No quorum at this time and will be revisited later as more members arrive.
- 5. Principal Comments** - no comments due to the principal's absence.
- 6. Old Business**
 - A. Long Beach Grand Prix** - we received a check for \$10,806.51. As the event gets closer, we will discuss whether to participate again.

B. 2027 Membership Campaign

- David reported that he received the donor file from Shirley and will be revising the file from an accounting file to a donor file.
- He also would like to recruit four or five honorary members, possibly Dennis Gilbert, to bring recognition and reputation to our organization and to help bring in new members.
- Presently, we have 70 donors with lots of room to grow. Usually, there is a 10-12% return when letters are sent out so David would like to send out as many letters as possible.
- David has no access to survey results from Board Members last spring but will work with Shirley and AJ to gain access.
- The next meeting will be discussion of 2027 goals with a possible membership campaign beginning in December.

Quorum attained:

- Motion to approve adjusted and corrected August 17, 2026, agenda made by Dr. Jackson. Phil seconded the motion. Shirley carried the motion. The ayes have it and it was so ordered.
- Motion to approve updated and corrected May 18, 2026, minutes was made by Dr. Jackson. Phil seconded the motion. Shirley carried the motion. The ayes have it and it was so ordered.
- Motion to approve the corrected Treasurer's Report was made by David. Dr. Moutra seconded the motion. Shirley carried the motion. The ayes have it and it was so ordered.

6. Old Business

C. Partnership w/GHS, motion for records - a motion was approved outside of the meeting for a \$1,000 expense to be used for the faculty/staff breakfast for the first day of school. David clarified that there was already a \$200 budget item for breakfast therefore, we just need to increase the request to \$800 more. David made the motion to increase the budget by \$800 for the faculty breakfast. Phil seconded the motion. Shirley carried the motion. The ayes have it and it was so ordered.

D. Avalon Gardens Community Block Party - Shirley reported the Block Party has been cancelled/postponed so we will not be participating in that event.

E. Alumni Picnic and Silent Auction - Salli reported that the picnic will take place on Saturday, September 5th from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Gardena Elks Lodge. It costs \$20 per person to cover the cost of facilities, security, Guiliano's sandwiches etc. If anyone would like to help Shirley and Salli sell merchandise or help with registration, please let either one of them know. Silent auction will not take place this year.

Mrs. Williams sent everyone a draft of the newsletter in the group chat to allow everyone to view it.

7. New Business

A. Certificate of Insurance - Shirley asked the members how everyone feels about whether we should purchase a certificate of insurance annually or event by event? For example, we had to purchase a certificate of insurance for the 2023 City Championship Football Banquet and had to provide it to LAUSD's Office of Risk Management. A discussion was held on the types of insurance, cost, and who requires it. Shirley wanted everyone to consider the possibilities, and we will come back to it at another time.

B. Select Secretary for the Board - Cheryl Nakata has volunteered to be the secretary for the Board. Zerrona made a motion to nominate Cheryl Nakata as the secretary for the Board. David seconded the motion. Shirley carried the motion; the ayes have it and it was so ordered.

C. Meeting with Principal Buenrostro and Staff/Faculty Breakfast - Meeting with the Principal went well and our participation at the Staff/Faculty breakfast was one of the outcomes of the meeting. We felt that it was a very positive meeting, and we feel that the principal knows that we will be able to support her and the school and we are available and will be more visible on campus. Some recommendations were made about us being visible at senior class meetings, career day, and when seniors take their senior class pictures.

8. Reports

A. Scholarship Committee - Elmer thanked everyone for their support for this year's scholarships and looks forward to doing it again next year. Cheryl reported a new \$1,000 scholarship available for June 2027 named the Shirley M. McCarty Leadership Scholarship in memory of Shirley McCarty who taught at Gardena High for over 20 years. Phil made a motion to add the Shirley McCarty scholarship as a new scholarship in addition to our existing scholarships. Cheryl seconded it. Shirley carried the motion: the ayes have it and it was so ordered.

B. Fundraising Report

- **Raising Cane's** - Shirley reported that we received \$24 for this fundraiser.
- **Alumni Picnic and Silent Auction** - Carol not present but Salli already reported on the picnic and auction.
- **McDonald's** - AJ not present.
- **Double Good** - Can discuss it at the next meeting if we'd like to do it again.
- **Yearbooks from GHS Bookstore** - Nothing to report and these are the yearbooks that were donated by Coach Partridge.
- **California Pizza Kitchen** - Carol not present.

C. Grant Writing/Potential - David had no updates

D. Senior Cabinet Advisory - Rosie - not present but Shirley will reach out to discuss meeting with Ms. Vu and Ms. Sandoval.

E. Membership Newsletter - Zerrona has already dropped the newsletter into the group chat as well as this Zoom meeting.

F. Merchandise - Salli said there was nothing new but that they will be selling merchandise at the picnic for \$20 and since inventory is dwindling, we will have to decide when to re-order. However, our current contact is retiring but Dr. Moutra has a contact that she will forward to Salli.

G. Website/Board Photos/Bios - Dr. J stated that he will take any changes from David on the digital form for membership and will update the website. Also, he will follow up on the Board Bios for everyone. Shirley thanked him for all his hard work.

H. Social Media: Facebook and Instagram - Shirley stated that she is constantly trying to keep Facebook and Friends updated. She posted about the status of the stadium renovation and will post about the upcoming membership program.

I. Public Comments - none. Salli asked if she could speak, since she was scheduled to speak under New Business. Salli commented that many organizations post a calendar with all scheduled fundraisers for each month and whether that is something we should pursue. Also, possibly scheduling a social mixer for alumni maybe once a month or once a quarter. A discussion was held on what types of events we would like to schedule and what days and times. David reminded everyone that the membership campaign would likely begin in December and we would need to keep that in mind when scheduling events. Salli stated that she'll schedule a social event for October and then have our big membership kick-off event in November and then we'll discuss at next month's meeting.

10. **Next Meeting (September 21, 2026) and Adjournment** - Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheryl Nakata